Revamping of working of Ministry of Defence

3681. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to pay greater emphasis to revamp the working of the Ministry of Defence;

(b) whether greater financial autonomy is proposed to be granted to the Ministry in financial decision-making; and

(c) what other steps are being taken to challenge the external threat faced by the nation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government continuously endeavours to effect improvements in the structures, processes and procedures to ensure most optimal utilization of the scarce national resources. The Government constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) on 17th April, 2000 to thoroughly review the national security System in its entirety and, in particular to consider the recommendations of the Kargil Review Committee and formulate specific proposals for implementation. The GoM has made detailed recommendations for reforming the National Security System including questions relating to the Delegation/operation of Financial powers to and in the Ministry. The recommendations of the GoM have been presented to the Prime Minister on 26.2.2001.

(c) After examination and acceptance of the Report, action as required will be taken expeditiously.

Repatriation of Social Security Collected from Indian holding H1-B Visa

3682. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand to get a part of the social security collected from Indians holding H1-B Visa repatriated;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;